

CHURCH USES "LUCKY DRAW" PROMOTION

October 25, 1996 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org) -

At the Sweet Haven Holy Church of God in Carrollton, Virginia, church attendance is encouraged with a little game of "lucky draw." (That is what I call it; I don't know what they call it.) According to an October 19 Associated Press report, the pastor distributes green play money, and those who find a bill with the pastor's initials on the back win between \$10 and \$100. "Up to four people win each Sunday." To be eligible, a person must be at church for the entire service. The pastor testified that attendance has doubled to about 100 people since the program started three years ago.

I believe this is unscriptural silliness, but it is no different than giving away bicycles or conducting clown and magic shows to draw a crowd. Where do we read in Scripture that the church is to become a circus or a lucky draw center? Can you imagine the Lord Jesus Christ or the Apostle Paul using such things to draw people! No wonder unsaved people laugh at churches today. Before I was saved I attended an evangelistic meeting conducted by a well-known speaker. He gave away all sorts of things to motivate people to bring visitors, and I sat there and thought, "That is why they urged me to come; they wanted to win something for themselves." I am sure, now, that I was wrong, but that is the way the lost man thinks. We should not do things like this which give unsaved men an excuse to ignore the Gospel.